

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 043599
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PPT-01 CA-01 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 PA-01 /044 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH:HMN

APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH

PPT:CWILSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043599

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:EINV, FIN, BGEN, NI

SUBJECT: AIG: LEFEVRE PASSPORT

REF: SMITH/EASUM TELECON FEBRUARY 13

1. WE RAISED WITH SHELP OF AIG, AND, AT HIS SUGGESTION,
BROWER (WHITE AND CASE) PROBLEM PRESENTED BY MEA OFFER
TO RETURN LEFEVRE'S PASSPORT PROVIDED HE GIVE UNDERTAKING
NOT TO LEAVE COUNTRY.

2. WHITE AND CASE VIEW, WITH WHICH WE AGREE, IS THAT
EMBASSY SHOULD PRESS FOR RETURN OF PASSPORT WITH NO
CONDITIONS. IF MEA PERSISTS, EMBASSY SHOULD BE GUIDED
BY ITS OWN JUDGMENT OF THE SITUATION AFTER CONSULTATION
WITH LEFEVRE. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, WE SEE LITTLE
POINT IN SECURING A PASSPORT WHICH COULD NOT BE USED TO
LEAVE COUNTRY, AND WE RECOGNIZE THAT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT
COULD BLOCK LEFEVRE'S DEPARTURE, IF IT WISHED, WHETHER
OR NOT HIS PASSPORT WERE RETURNED.

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PAGE 02 STATE 043599

3. IF A QUESTION OF POSSIBLE CHARGES AGAINST LEFEVRE
OR AIG ARISE, YOU MAY SUGGEST FMG MAKE ITS COMPLAINTS
SPECIFIC AND NOTE THAT, WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO SEE AIG
AND/OR LEFEVRE INVOLVED IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, ON THE WHOLE

WE THINK IT PREFERABLE THAT FMG MAKE KNOWN ITS CONCERNS

SO THAT THEY MAY BE REBUTTED. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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